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Chairman: Mr. Koudelka (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Czech Republic)

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In the absence of Mr. Wali (Nigeria), Mr. Koudelka (Czech Republic), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 52: Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/C.2/60/L.24, A/C.2/60/L.60 and A/C.2/60/L.57)

Draft resolutions on the Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-third session

1. **Mr. Seth** (Secretary of the Committee), referring to paragraphs 11 and 12 of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.60 and to General Assembly resolutions 45/248 B of 21 December 1990 and 2997 (XXVII), said that provisions had been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 for implementing the terms of the resolution. Therefore, should the Committee adopt the draft resolution, there would be no requirement for additional provisions, as the necessary requirements would be accommodated within the proposed estimates.

2. **Mr. Toscano** (Switzerland), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.60, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.24 and recommended its adoption by consensus.

3. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.60 was adopted.*

4. **Mr. Kotis** (United States of America), speaking in explanation of position, said that his delegation supported incorporating environmental concerns into development work. The existing system of multilateral environmental agreements reflected a good balance of coordination and decentralization. The principal responsibility for improving coordination on environmental issues should remain with national governments and not placed on a supranational authority. The focus should be on improving the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), not changing its status. UNEP was funded principally through voluntary contributions. The United States supported that arrangement and believed that the funds received by UNEP under the United Nations regular budget should decrease.

5. Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.24 was withdrawn.

Draft resolution on the International Year of the Potato

6. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.57 had no programme budget implications.

7. **Mr. Toscano** (Switzerland), Vice-Chairman, introducing the draft resolution, stressed that the potato was the fourth most important food crop in the world and recommended the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

8. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.57 was adopted.*

9. **Mr. Doig** (Peru) said that the International Year of the Potato would serve to raise awareness of the importance of the potato and hoped that all interested groups would participate in the events organized in connection with the Year.

(e) Sustainable development in mountain regions (*continued*) (A/C.2/60/L.19 and A/C.2/60/L.63)

(i) Rendering assistance to poor mountain countries to overcome obstacles in socio-economic and ecological areas (*continued*) (A/C.2/60/L.19 and A/C.2/60/L.63)

Draft resolutions on sustainable mountain development

10. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.63, submitted by Mr. Toscano (Switzerland), Vice-Chairman of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.19, had no programme budget implications and announced that Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, France, Greece, Lebanon, Peru, the Philippines, Mexico, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uganda, Ukraine and the United Republic of Tanzania had joined the sponsors.

11. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.63 was adopted.*

12. **Mr. Kotis** (United States of America) said that his country, which was committed to the sustainable development of mountain regions, had many relevant programmes, supported the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions and favoured the use of various funding mechanisms to promote such development. In the absence of a clear definition of the broad term "debt for sustainable development swaps", used in paragraph 14 of the draft

resolution, the United States understood that expression to mean "debt-for-nature swaps", a term generally used internationally.

13. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.19 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 54: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(b) Science and technology for development (*continued*) (A/C.2/60/L.17 and A/C.2/60/L.59)

Draft resolutions on science and technology for development

14. **The Chairman** said that draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.59, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.17, had no programme budget implications.

15. **Mr. Meisel** (Austria), speaking as facilitator of the consultations on the draft resolution, said that the following revisions should be made: a new first preambular paragraph should be inserted at the beginning which read: "Recalling its resolutions 58/200 and 59/200,"; the new seventh preambular paragraph should read: "Welcoming the Tunis Commitment[2] and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society[3] of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, and recalling the Geneva Declaration of Principles[4] and the Geneva Plan of Action[5] at the first phase of the Summit,"; a new fourteenth preambular paragraph should be inserted which read: "Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on science and technology for development,"; the first line of paragraph 1 should read: "Affirms its commitment to:" and the word "to" at the beginning of subparagraphs (a) through (f) should be deleted.

16. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.59, as orally revised, was adopted.*

17. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.17 was withdrawn.*

(d) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of funds of illicit origin and returning such assets to the countries of origin (*continued*) (A/C.2/60/L.29 and A/C.2/60/L.54)

Draft resolutions on preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption

18. **The Chairman** said that draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.54, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.29, had no programme budget implications.

19. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.54 was adopted.*

20. **Ms. Haycock** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the European Union, Canada, Australia, Japan and Liechtenstein had joined the consensus on the resolution because they considered preventing and combating corruption essential to promoting good governance and to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Ratification and full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption by all Member States was vital to the fight against corruption and the resolution sent a strong message in that regard.

21. However, although the resolution contained language from paragraph 24 (e) of the World Summit Outcome, it was disappointing that its title failed to clearly reflect the provisions of the Convention and the language on asset return that had been agreed in the World Summit Outcome. The European Union, Australia, Canada, Liechtenstein and Japan understood the title of the draft resolution to mean, inter alia, that, consistent with the Convention, in particular its Chapter V, assets of illicit origin derived from corruption should be returned to their rightful owners, which in many cases were likely to be the countries of origin; and urged Member States to consider adopting at the sixty-first session of the General Assembly a resolution whose title and text would more accurately reflect the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

22. **Mr. Moret** (Switzerland) said that his delegation concurred with the view that in future a resolution whose title and contents would exactly reflect the provisions of the Convention should be adopted. Moreover, the title of the draft resolution did not rule out restoration of illicit assets to their rightful owners, to be determined on a case-by-case basis in line with the Convention, even if they were not States or were not located in the State of origin or the State requesting

the return of the assets. Switzerland had joined the consensus on the resolution because combating corruption was a key to good governance and to attaining the internationally agreed development goals.

23. **Mr. Kotis** (United States of America) said that his delegation aligned itself with the statement made by the European Union. In joining the consensus, it understood the "right to development" to mean that each individual was entitled to develop his or her intellectual or other capabilities to the maximum extent possible for the exercise of the full range of civil and political rights.

24. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.29 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 57: Operational activities for development (*continued*)

(b) South-South cooperation: economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (*continued*) (A/C.2/60/L.31 and A/C.2/60/L.61)

Draft resolutions on South-South cooperation

25. **The Chairman** said that draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.61, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.31, had no programme budget implications.

26. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.61 was adopted.*

27. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.31 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 58: Training and research (*continued*)

(a) United Nations Institute for Training and Research (*continued*) (A/C.2/60/L.39 and A/C.2/60/L.56)

Draft resolutions on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research

28. **The Chairman** said that draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.56, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.39, had no programme budget implications. Paragraph 11 should read: "Invites the Secretary-General, after consultation with the Board, in accordance with article XI of the statute to consider the advisability of reformulating article V, paragraph 2 (j), so that the report of the Secretary-General may be submitted to the Economic and Social Council rather than to the General Assembly, and include the findings in its report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session".

29. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.56, as orally revised, was adopted.*

30. **Ms. Say** (Turkey) said that, while her delegation was pleased to have joined the consensus on the draft resolution and fully supported the function of the Institute, it wished to stress the need for better screening of the content of the Institute's course materials. Inclusion of irrelevant texts based on one-sided and unsubstantiated allegations called into question the objectivity and reliability of United Nations educational materials. Turkey would monitor that issue until those texts were corrected.

31. *Draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.39 was withdrawn.*

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.